

# Chase LaSpisa

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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Political Science, **University of Iowa** May 2026 (expected)  
*Dissertation: Maritime Zones of Contention: The Effect of Offshore Fossil-Fuel Resources on Maritime International Conflict and Cooperation*  
*Committee: Sara McLaughlin Mitchell (chair), Brian Lai, Frederick Boehmke, Krista Wiegand*
- M.A. Political Science, **University of Iowa** December 2021
- B.A. Political Science, **Oklahoma State University** May 2020  
Minors: Economics & Russian Language and Literature  
Summa Cum Laude & Honors College Degree

## HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

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- Fulbright Grantee**, 24-25 Fulbright U.S Study/Research Grant Award to Norway 2024-2025
- University of Iowa Post-Comprehensive Fellowship**, Declined Spring 2024
- Lynne Rienner Award** for Best Paper Presented by a Graduate Student, International Studies Association Fall 2023
- Delegate**, Bridging the Gap New Era Workshop, University of Denver Fall 2023
- Best Seminar Paper**, Departmental Award, University of Iowa Fall 2022
- Graduate College Recruitment Fellowship**, University of Iowa Spring 2020
- NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates**, University of North Texas Summer 2019

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- LaSpisa, Chase**. 2025. "Dangerous Development: The Effect of Offshore Fossil-Fuel Discovery and Production on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict". *International Interactions* 25 (1): 29-57.
- LaSpisa, Chase** and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2025. "Testing the Waters: Exploring Why Democracies Have More Maritime Conflict". *Foreign Policy Analysis* 21 (2): 1-15.

## WORKING PAPERS

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- LaSpisa, Chase**. "The Oil-Repression Nexus: Oil Reliance and Government Incentives to Repress"
- LaSpisa, Chase**. The Impact of Border-Proximate Offshore Oil Resources on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict"
- LaSpisa, Chase**. "Revisiting the Resource Location-Conflict Link: The Impact of Natural Resource Proximity on Local Civil Conflict Intensity"
- Millerd, Carly and **Chase LaSpisa**. "Protesting the Patriarchy: Public Gender Attitudes and Women's Mobilization"
- Millerd, Carly and **Chase LaSpisa**. "When it Rains, it Pours: The Effect of Natural Disasters on Low-Scale Social Conflict"

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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### International Relations

Interstate Conflict, Intrastate Conflict, Natural Resource Politics, Maritime Conflict and Cooperation, Environmental Politics and Climate Change

### Comparative Politics

Contentious Politics, Social Movements, Resource Curse, Political Economy of Human Rights, Subnational Effects of Environment and Climate Change

## RESEARCH & GRADUATE ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant**, Elizabeth Menninga Fall 2023 – Summer 2024

Worked for a collaborative research team led by Elizabeth Menninga and Alyssa Prorok on cooperation between rebels and governments in civil wars. I converted original data from news reports collected from NexiUni into empirical data by identifying instances of cooperation in the news reports and coding them into the project's main dataset. I conducted quality control checks of other research assistant's converted data to ensure the original data followed strict research guidelines. I also participated in weekly research meetings and assisted in refining coding rules for other research assistants to follow.

**Research Consultant**, ISSRC, Frederick Boehmke Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Worked as part of a team of graduate student research consultants managed by the Iowa Social Science Research Center that advised and assisted members of the University of Iowa's research community in conducting original research. I specifically provided consulting services for researchers requiring assistance with data management, statistical analysis, and data visualization, including mapping. I constructed workshops, including presentations and practice datasets, to teach individuals the fundamentals of Stata as well as how to visualize data using Stata.

**Editorial Assistant**, *American Political Science Review*, Kelly Kadera Fall 2022 - Summer 2023

Worked as the assistant to one of the Associate Editors of *American Political Science Review*, Kelly Kadera. I assisted in reviewer selection and managing the reviewer database for the journal.

**Editorial Assistant**, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Brian Lai Spring 2021 - Summer 2022

Worked under one of the lead editors of *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Brian Lai, to facilitate the publication of manuscripts post-review. I replicated the data analysis of any empirical manuscript accepted for publication in the journal, communicated with authors and editors, assisted in maintaining the journal database of reviewers and submissions, and prepared manuscripts for publication by ensuring document quality. I replicated the results of empirical manuscripts by accessing provided data files, troubleshooting provided code in both Stata and R, and communicating with authors if any issues occurred.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Workshop Instructor**, Iowa Social Science Research Center

Introduction to Stata

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Introduction to Data Visualization using Stata

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Iowa

Introduction to Foreign Policy, undergraduate

Fall 2020

Introduction to International relations, undergraduate	Spring 2021
Introduction to Foreign Policy (online), undergraduate- <i>Head TA</i>	Fall 2021-Fall 2022
<b>Guest Lecturer</b>	
International Conflict	Fall 2022
Guest lectured on the Outcomes and Consequences of War; prepared a lesson and questions regarding how interstate wars end and the impacts they have both domestically and internationally; illustrated concepts by using the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War; led guided discussion.	

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Distinct Impacts of Offshore Oil and Offshore Natural Gas on Maritime Conflict”  
American Political Science Association. Accepted to present Fall 2024. Philadelphia, PA.

“From Land to Sea: The Domestic Origins of Maritime Conflict over Fossil-Fuel Resources”  
International Studies Association. San Francisco, CA. Spring 2024.

“Testing the Waters: Exploring Why Democracies Have More Maritime Conflict” with Sara McLaughlin Mitchell  
International Studies, Midwest. St Louis, MO. Fall 2023.

“Maritime Zones of Contention: The Impact of Maritime Border-Proximate Offshore Oil Resources on Diplomatic Conflict”  
European Political Science Association. Glasgow, Scotland. June 2023.

“Revisiting the Resource Location-Conflict Link: The Impact of Natural Resource Proximity on Local Civil Conflict Intensity”  
International Studies Association. Montréal, Québec, Canada. Spring 2023.

“Fishing for Oil: The Effect of Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Reserves on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict:”  
International Studies, Midwest. St Louis, MO. Fall 2022.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

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<b>At-large Board Member</b> , International Studies Association-Midwest	2022 - 2024
<b>Peer Mentor</b> , Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa	2021 - 2024
<b>Vice-President</b> , Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa	2021 - 2023
<b>Student Union Rep.</b> , Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa	2020 - 2021

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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**International Studies Association**  
**Bridging the Gap**  
**American Political Science Association**

## **ANALYTICAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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Software: Stata, R, Tableau, QGIS, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, SPSS, Qualtrics, and Python (basic)

## **REFERENCES**

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Sara McLaughlin Mitchell  
F. Wendell Miller Professor  
University of Iowa  
[Sara-Mitchell@uiowa.edu](mailto:Sara-Mitchell@uiowa.edu)

Brian Lai  
Associate Professor  
University of Iowa  
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Elizabeth Menninga  
Associate Professor  
University of Iowa  
[Elizabeth-Menninga@uiowa.edu](mailto:Elizabeth-Menninga@uiowa.edu)

Holley Hansen  
Teaching Assistant Professor  
Oklahoma State University  
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